

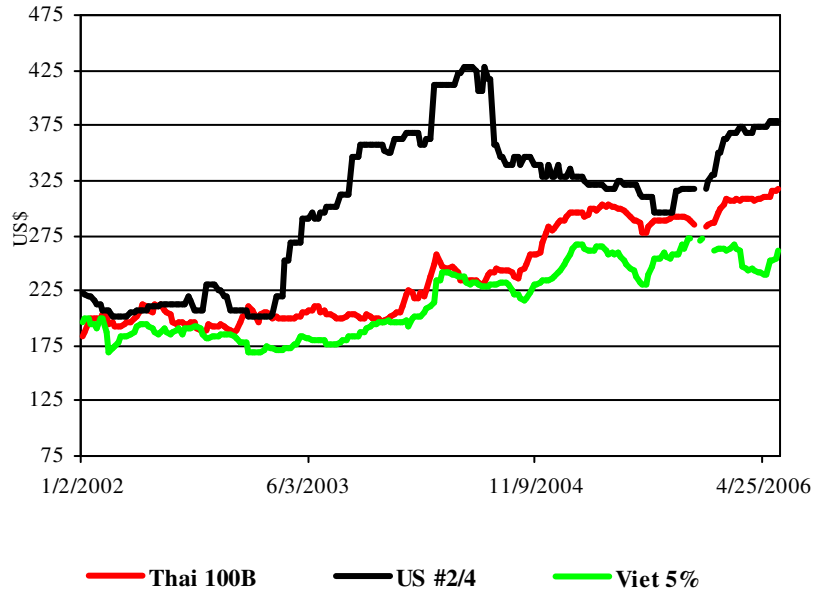
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## RICE: WORLD MARKETS AND TRADE

### PRICES:

**International:** Asian prices are still showing a wide divergence between suppliers. In Thailand, prices remain high, sustained by large exports to Iran and Iraq and from strong buying interest in the Middle East. The appreciation of the Baht has also helped boost prices. Thai 100B is currently quoted at \$318 per ton, FOB, up \$7 from last month. Viet 5% is currently quoted at \$261 per ton, FOB, up \$9 from last month. Prices in India are down slightly; 5% is currently quoted at \$250 per ton, FOB.

Nominal Rice Quotes – 2002 to Present



**Domestic:** U.S. prices increased this month with U.S. #2/4 long grain milled rice quoted at \$379 per ton, FOB. The spread between comparable qualities of Thai and U.S. rice is \$61 per ton. Prices for U.S. #1/4 medium grain milled rice from California are currently quoted at \$475 per ton, FOB, unchanged from last month.

### TRADE CHANGES IN 2005

#### Selected Exporters

- Trade estimates are finalized based on year end data for **India**.

#### Selected Importers

- Trade estimates are finalized based on year end data for **Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Somalia**.